

JUNE 2008



CDCR news

COMMUNICATING WITH PROFESSIONALS IN CORRECTIONS AND PAROLE

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Officer Steve Cacciola (leaning back in chair), Sgt. Umberto Silva, Sgt. Michael Slankard, Lt. Patrick Matzen, Officer Debbie Martinez, Warden (A) Fernando Gonzalez.

Governor Visits With “The Real Heroes of This State” - The CCI Correctional Officers Injured During Inmate Attack

By Paul Verke, Information Officer II

On Monday afternoon, May 19, 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger visited with Matthew Cate, Secretary; and California Correctional Institution (CCI) staff, Fernando Gonzalez, Warden (A); Patrick Matzen, Correctional Lieutenant; Umberto Silva, Jr. and Michael Slankard, Correctional Sergeants; and Steve Cacciola and Debra Martinez, Correctional Officers, who were involved in an April attack by inmates at the institution. The meeting took place in the Governor’s private Oak Productions office in Santa Monica.

“Their courage, toughness, and bravery is amazing. I wanted to offer them encouragement and my

support. They are the real heroes of this state,” said the Governor.

“We felt it was an honor and a privilege to be able to meet with the Governor,” said Warden (A) Gonzalez. “During the course of this meeting, he expressed concern with the employees’ health, and was very interested in hearing their account of how they overcame and subdued the attackers. He also asked the employees if they had any input on how to avoid such attacks in the future.”

“This visit with the Governor made a positive impression,” continued Gonzalez. “We understand he is very busy and it meant a lot.

“Former Agency Secretary Jim Tilton and Dave Runnels, Undersecretary, all showed their concern and support by visiting the staff at the hospital on the day of the incident. Soon after, the Governor, via the Secretary, let us know that he was concerned and wanted to personally speak to them. That goes a long way with our staff.”

Incident summary

On April 3, 2008, at approximately 1:10 p.m., two inmates carried out a planned attack on correctional staff with inmate-manufactured weapons, causing serious injuries. The two inmates rushed staff in a program office on the

maximum-security, general population yard at CCI. Two correctional sergeants and two correctional officers were taken to area hospitals for treatment of injuries including lacerations and puncture wounds. The on-duty Lieutenant was the first responder, taking immediate actions to subdue the inmates and prevent further injury to staff.

Warden (A) Gonzalez indicated that in this instance, staff overcame the element of surprise and a well-armed attack because they had a will to survive. They fought against these odds and won.

The severity of the attack against staff necessitated the statewide precautionary lockdown of all adult prisons and camps until a statewide security assessment could be conducted. Within four hours of the assault, the department sent nine special investigators to assist CCI. Within 36 hours of the incident the department activated and deployed more than 150 staff from other institutions and the Office of Correctional Safety. The follow-up operation resulted in 32 prison gang validations and another 71 disruptive group validations.

Warden (A) Gonzalez indicated that he and his staff are forever indebted to all involved in the special operation. The immediate response to the call of duty, activation, deployment, and execution of the plan was phenomenal. This collaborative action invigorated and encouraged CCI staff.

CCI Tehachapi staff involved in incident:

Sergeant Umberto Silva, Jr. began his career with the department in 1985 as a Medical Technical Assistant after serving in the U.S. Navy for five years. He promoted to Correctional Sergeant in 2003. Sgt. Silva was the most seriously injured staff member and remains on leave recovering from his injuries.

Sergeant Michael Slankard began his career as a Correctional Officer in 2002 after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years. He promoted to Correctional Sergeant in 2005. Sgt. Slankard was injured in the attack and has recently returned to work.

Officer Debra Martinez began

her career as a Correctional Officer in 1996. She is a member of CCI's Honor Guard and was awarded a Bronze Medal of Valor in 2006 for rendering aid at an automobile accident. She was injured responding to the attack and recently returned to work.

Officer Steve Cacciola began his

"Their courage, toughness, and bravery is amazing. I wanted to offer them encouragement and my support. They are the real heroes of this state."

— Arnold Schwarzenegger

career at CCI in 1996. Officer Cacciola, injured in the attack, continued to assist his fellow officer's to subdue their assailants. He is still off work recovering from his injuries.

Lieutenant Matzen began his career as a Correctional Officer in 1987 after

serving in the U.S. Army for three years. He promoted to Correctional Lieutenant in 2004. Lt. Matzen was awarded a Bronze Medal of Valor in 2006 for rendering assistance at an automobile accident. Lt. Matzen was in the program office during the attack and was the initial responder. He was treated for exposure and returned to full duty.

Warden (A) Fernando Gonzalez has worked for the department for 27 years, beginning his career at the California Men's Colony. He promoted to Chief Deputy Warden at CCI in 2006 and has been acting Warden at CCI since 2007. Warden (A) Gonzalez provided oversight and command of the Emergency Operations Center during the incident and coordinated support to the Office of Correctional Safety and Departmental Investigative Unit operation.

"This was a tremendous experience for a group of some of our toughest employees, to meet our Governor," said Matthew Cate, CDCR's Secretary. "This will not be the end of recognition for them; however, as they will hopefully be back for next year's Medal of Valor ceremony."

The incident is a reminder to all of us to stay vigilant-to be on guard against such violence, and the importance of our anti-gang efforts.

The incident remains under investigation.



Incoming CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate Notes Agency Strengths; Challenges, Direction Forward

By George Kostyrko, Chief, Office of Communications

Newly appointed CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate arrives at the helm of the state's largest agency at a pivotal time.

Cate, who left his "watchdog" role as the state's Inspector General to assume leadership as CDCR Secretary on May 19, told CDCR News that the agency is in a much better position to effect change than in the past. He said he has seen progressive change. With the various leadership appointments made by his predecessor, James Tilton, Cate believes there is a strong team in place to see these changes through for the future.

No stranger to the inner workings of CDCR, Cate has had the unique perspective of being in the parole regions, and in the institutions, while carefully auditing CDCR's programs and operations since his appointment as the state's Inspector General in 2004.

The former prosecutor thoughtfully reflected on the challenges ahead and the positive changes that have occurred at CDCR. He believes the role of headquarters is to drive and sponsor change. Cate credits staff as a significant steadying force during the changes that have taken place at CDCR since 2005.

"My take, as Inspector General, from walking those yards and talking to staff is that they are doing an incredible job -- despite the challenges they face every day," Cate said. "They are doing everything they can to run our prisons safely, and give inmates a chance to reform. It is our job here in headquarters to give staff the resources and tools they need to do their jobs even better."

A year has passed since the Legislature authorized, and Governor Schwarzenegger signed, historic reform legislation intended to provide a significant and comprehensive corrections reform. Assembly Bill 900 provides resources to reduce overcrowding and improve public

safety by reducing the rates at which inmates re-victimize communities and return to prison. At the same time, the Division of Juvenile Justice has undertaken its own version of monumental reforms as part of its effort to remediate the issues identified in the Farrell lawsuit. Cate believes these reforms are California's best chance at turning California's adult and juvenile

evidence-based practices in its treatment of adult and juvenile offenders -- from reception through parole," Cate said. "That was a primary criticism because what we were doing before didn't make a difference to the recidivism rate. We are now poised to implement more effective treatment programs. We need to expand that approach through the entire system. That is the next step."

Cate said his career will now have come full circle. Cate spent years as a county and state prosecutor, winning cases and getting felons sentenced to prison. Until he became the Inspector General, he said he never gave this final piece of the correctional system much thought.

As a prosecutor, Cate said, "you don't give offenders' outcomes a second thought."

He said that all changed during his four years as the state's Inspector General when he became intimately familiar with the inner workings of CDCR. Cate said he made it a point to visit institutions, parole offices and programs to review and audit treatment programs, education and vocational programming as well as provide objective oversight for ongoing investigations.

Cate believes it is important for him and others on the executive team to visit the field and be open to suggestions and ideas from employees who know the challenge better than anyone else.

"I don't come in pretending to have all the answers, and I will draw on the expertise of the senior leadership and work closely with officers and staff in the field," Cate said. "I think in time they will find that I really believe in searching for the best possible solution -- whether it is my solution or someone else's. I am willing to listen. Together, I believe, we can take these reforms to the next level."

For more information, please visit the CDCR website at www.cdcr.ca.gov ■



Matthew Cate - CDCR's New Secretary

criminal systems into national models.

"Rehabilitation is a clear priority for me," Cate said. "Public safety is my passion and one of the most effective ways to improve public safety is to reduce recidivism. The department now has a comprehensive plan to improve rehabilitation -- that is something they didn't have before."

Cate stated that significant improvements have been made under the leadership of CDCR's executive team, who has worked closely with national experts and other public safety stakeholders.

"The department is starting to adopt

Division of Juvenile Justice Canine Teams Are Top Dog for 2008

By Jonathan Parsley, Information Officer II

Correctional Officer Jeff Moen leads his canine partner, Moe, around the dog training obstacle course at DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Center in Stockton. Moe is focused, spirited in his relentless searching, and doesn't appear to be giving up easily.

The contraband, well hidden by Correctional Officer Paul Castro, is what Moe is looking for. Giving quiet commands in German to Moe, Officer Moen leads the dog through the area sniffing for the illegal substance. Moe diligently searches high on the ladders and through the tunnels of the canine obstacle course, leaving no area unsearched.

Moe suddenly, excitedly starts scratching at the base of a tunnel and Officer Moen retrieves the contraband. Moe is rewarded with his chew toy, a stick scented with the aromas of various substances that the dog was trained to look for. Those substances include marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines.

This is part of the rigorous training the dogs go through for their role in finding contraband. The canines are trained by playing with these sticks, so their work is all play for them. The dogs think they are looking for their toy, so they eagerly search for the same scent as the contraband.

"As a handler, you can read the dog's reactions when they make a 'hit,'" Dewitt Officer Paul Castro said of his partner, Vader. The dog teams efforts at DeWitt have resulted in nine felony arrests so far this year. The dogs live with their handlers, coming and going to work with the employees. In time, a bond forms and the dogs learn when it's time to go to work.

The teams from De Witt recently competed in the Western States Canine Association with other dog teams from Northern California to Madera.

"Our dogs brought back first place awards from the competition and earned a Distinguished Service Medal last year during the 2007 Medal of Valor ceremony," said Dewitt Nelson Captain

Gerry Garcia. "Our dogs have done very well."

But Northern California isn't the only place that DJJ has a winning canine operation. Last year, the team from Southern California shared an award as part of Employee of the Year commendation.

Officer Miguel Diaz and his canine partner are part of the set of dog and handler teams located at Heman J. Stark Youth Correctional Facility in Chino. Diaz has been a handler for six years and Officer Billy Nelson has two years of experience. Their dogs, Nero, age 9 and Argos, age 3 consistently prove their value with each operation. One canine team found more than three pounds of marijuana hidden in a van's door sill during one search operation.

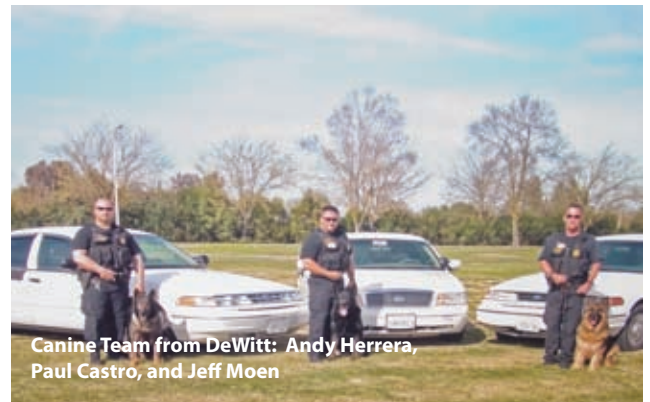
"Our dogs are trained to sniff out all contraband, including drugs, tobacco, even cell phones and cash," Heman G. Stark Lt. Eugene Sears said.

When the DJJ dogs come around, wards have been removed from the living areas to facilitate and speed searches. These dogs are used exclusively for contraband searches, both in the facility and before and after visitors arrive to see wards. The dogs are popular with local law enforcement, and have been the focus of news articles and have been the recipients of letters of commendation from the Drug Enforcement Agency, local law enforcement jurisdictions and the FBI.

Often times the department's parole units and other agencies will ask for help from the dog teams in contraband searches for parole compliance checks.

"The dogs have discovered weapons, methamphetamine materials and drug paraphernalia," Sears said.

All of the dogs in the program are



specially bred and trained for the job. The dogs need to be between 2- and 4-years-old to be trained, a process that takes approximately three months. The dogs on the teams now are between 3- and 11-years-old. Each animal costs about \$6,000 to purchase and train. Their handlers believe the dogs pay for themselves due to their contraband searching abilities, which makes the institutions and visitation safer for all.

"The presence of the dogs slows the progress of contraband entering the facility and the dogs provide vital mutual aid to the other agencies that request it," Sears said.

With the announcement of the imminent closure of the DeWitt Nelson facility, it is expected the dog teams will be moved to nearby N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility, where they will continue to do their work for DJJ and the community-at-large.

For more information, please visit the CDCR website at www.cdcr.ca.gov ■

CDCR Prepares to Help Employees in San Joaquin; San Luis Obispo Counties Area-of-Layoff Campaign

By George Kostyrko, Chief, Office of Communications

As the planned July 31, 2008 closure of CDCR locations in San Joaquin and San Luis Obispo counties draws closer, staff from Labor Relations, Human Resources and Operations are working to provide as many options as possible for the 660 affected positions.

Earlier this year, the Governor's proposed budget called for closing the Division of Juvenile Justice Dewitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility in San Joaquin County, as well as the El Paso de Robles Youth Correctional Facility in San Luis Obispo County.

In addition, the Adult Correctional Training Center Annex in Stockton is also slated for closure by July 31, 2008 as the former Northern California Women's Facility that housed the annex is converted into Northern California's Reentry Facility, a secure community Reentry Facility, serving Amador, San Joaquin and Calaveras counties.

Layoff plans have been approved by the Department of Personnel Administration. Labor organizations have been notified (CDCR negotiates with 18 of the 21 bargaining units representing state employees) and further discussions continue to take place to mitigate impact on affected staff.

To date, the CDCR representatives from labor relations, human resources, and both adult and juvenile operations

have met with hundreds of employees in both counties through a series of employee town halls, while delivering a range of information and options to employees via a special intranet website found at <http://intranet/main/LayoffInfo.asp>

The website contains the area of layoff plans for both counties, a list of resilience training classes to assist affected employees with potential job changes, a frequently-asked-questions page, preliminary senior placement scores for both counties, dates for the Dewitt Nelson transition academy and the "Statewide Internal Hiring Restriction" letter. In addition the website contains an email for employees affected by the changes to email questions. That email is CDCRPlacementTeam@cdcr.ca.gov. Placement team members field an average of 100 emails a week via this portal.

"My commitment has been to make every effort for all employees displaced by these change to have the best chance possible to find placement, or compete for vacancies statewide," former CDCR Secretary James Tilton said recently, while speaking with employees at the El Paso YCF location.



On April 15, 2008, a memo signed by Undersecretary David Runnels on behalf of then Secretary Tilton, directs all institutional adult and juvenile operations to restrict internal hiring in 107 specific classifications to limited-term offers only.

"It is our intent to provide all displaced employees with as many employment options as possible," the letter reads. "Training and development assignments will also be considered as these are not permanent appointments and may be terminated if necessary to place surplus employees."

The CDCR Placement Team continues to work hard on behalf of affected CDCR employees. Please visit the Area-of-Layoff resource intranet website at <http://intranet/main/LayoffInfo.asp>

Hubbard, Runnels Unanimously Approved By Senate Rules Committee

Undersecretary for Operations, Dave Runnels, and Director of the Division of Adult Institutions, Suzan Hubbard, were both unanimously approved for confirmation by the Senate Rules Committee on May 28th, 2008. Their next step before their confirmations will be official is a vote by the full Senate. Congratulations to Undersecretary Runnels and Director Hubbard.



Investing in Prison Reform Pays in Safety - Sets Bedrock of Lasting Reform

By James E. Tilton

One year ago, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the most comprehensive and bipartisan prison reform legislation that California has ever seen. The law's passage was in response to a combination of crises that had the state's prison system on the verge of collapse. While there is still much hard work to be done, California is finally on the right track toward real prison reform.

Before the passage of Assembly Bill 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2007, the state had no concrete plan to address the myriad serious issues facing our prison system. Overcrowding was near record highs, and California was very close to running out of beds for new inmates. Federal judges were contemplating imposing a population cap to force the release of inmates who had not served their full sentences.

Fortunately the Governor, working with legislators from both parties, law enforcement and community leaders, crafted a plan to address these issues head-on. The reform measure authorized transferring up to 8,000 inmates to out-of-state facilities, funded up to 53,000 beds in state prisons and local jails to reduce overcrowding, and set benchmarks to ensure that all inmates sent to prison are given access to rehabilitation programs.

While these reforms will not solve all of California's prison problems overnight, they provide for long-term solutions. However, in just one year since the passage of these reforms, significant progress is being made.

To date, more than 4,000 inmates have been transferred to out-of-state facilities, enough to fill an entire prison. This has allowed for more than a dozen gymnasiums used to house prisoners to be deactivated, so that they can be reused for recreation and rehabilitation programs. The state is on track to transfer 8,000 inmates out-of-state by early next year, providing much-needed breathing room in California prisons.

Construction plans are also moving

forward. New beds are being built at existing prisons, at secure community reentry facilities and in local jails across the state. These beds will relieve the strain on the system and create accompanying rehabilitation space. More than 6,000 infill beds at state prisons are currently moving through the approval process, 19 counties have submitted proposals for nearly 7,000 reentry beds to help transition inmates in their final 12 months of incarceration, and 24 counties have applied for funds to relieve jail overcrowding.

The state also understands that real prison reform takes more than just inmate transfers and new construction; it takes a seismic shift in focus toward providing inmates with programs that will help them be successful upon release. California's prison system has turned into a virtual revolving door for repeat offenders. Effective rehabilitation programs are being put in place to help end this vicious cycle.

California is implementing a project to provide pathways to rehabilitation for inmates designed to reduce recidivism rates. The state is also looking at parole and other reforms to better assess the risks and needs of ex-offenders and to tailor evidence-based programs to improve their chances of becoming law-abiding citizens.

California is taking progressive steps to end drug addiction, especially among its parolee population, which is also having a positive impact in reducing recidivism. The number of parolees diverted into community drug treatment beds is up 42 percent in the past year alone. This positive change has resulted in fewer parolees reoffending and decreased population in correctional institutions.

For true reform to be successful,



Secretary James Tilton (2006 - 2008)

partnerships with local communities must continue to be built. Their involvement and shared dedication is critical throughout the process for siting reentry facilities, and local communities should remain involved as citizens are returned to their homes.

It is a monumental task to overhaul such a massive system, with 67,000 employees, more than 170,000 inmates and more than 120,000 parolees. Fortunately, the reform movement is heading in the right direction and continuing to gain momentum.

I am retiring, after two years of leading the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation through a period of significant change. While I know that there are more challenges ahead, I have full confidence in the men and women who are working toward achieving the goals set out by the governor and legislators in their roadmap to reform.

By investing in reform and inmate rehabilitation, we are investing in the safety and the future of all Californians.

For more information, please visit the CDCR website at www.cdcr.ca.gov ■



Sister Suzanne Jabro: The Fuel that has Fired Up “Get on the Bus” for Nearly a Decade

Sister Suzanne paints the face of a visiting child

**By Margot Bach, Information Officer II,
Office of Public and Employee Communications**

The fuel firing the buses that transported some 650 children to visit their incarcerated mothers in early May for Mothers Day as part of the “Get On The Bus” program wasn’t petroleum-based.

The fuel was more of a spiritual nature. Starting with a single bus carrying 17 children in 1999, the progressive growth of this program through the better part of a decade can be single-handedly attributed to the relentless vision and social justice pursuits of Sister Suzanne Jabro.

A visionary leader in the restorative justice movement for more than 30 years, Jabro (lovingly known to the children and others as Sister Suzanne) is the guiding figure behind the annual Get on the Bus program, now in its ninth year of bringing children and other family members to inmates in California state prisons.

In the early years of her St. Joseph of Carondelet ministry, she served as the Director of Detention Ministry in the Los Angeles and Seattle

Archdioceses. As a prison chaplain, she saw first-hand the devastating family fallout that occurs when a parent with children is incarcerated.

In 1999, Sister Suzanne founded the non-profit Women and Criminal Justice (now the Center for Restorative Justice Works), and began the Get on the Bus project. The statewide annual event brings children from urban centers and other areas to visit their mothers and fathers in CDCR facilities. Scheduled to coincide with Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, the yearly events have hosted thousands of children and their caregivers on hundreds of buses.

“Every person has a room with a view of the world,” said Sister Suzanne. “For years, my vantage point has been from prisons in the United States. Prisons mirror society. The lives of prisoners reflect all the unmet social needs of a culture. No matter the name of the country, behind prison walls live the walking wounded; the mentally and physically ill; the illiterate and undereducated; the undocumented, addicted, homeless and poor. The

suffering found ‘inside’ prison walls is a reflection of the suffering in a society.”

The yearly bus programs were so successful that the CDCR provided Women and Criminal Justice \$400,000 in annual grants to initiate a weekly bus program—known as the Chowchilla Family Express—to bring children and members of their extended family to their parents housed at the two women’s prisons in Chowchilla. The buses come from different areas in the state each week and are free to children and their caregivers.

“The program recognizes how valuable family reunification is to the welfare of children and the eventual post-prison success of inmates,” said Wendy Still, Associate Director for Female Offender Programs and Services. The Chowchilla Family Express program sends an average of six to eight buses each month from northern and southern California and is currently scheduled through June 2008.

The actual work for families and their children to participate in the

Get on the Bus program begins several months in advance of their trip. Trained volunteers meet with families to process the paperwork needed for prison visits. On the day of the trip, families and volunteers meet buses at various locations to travel to Chowchilla and Chino.

The trip is usually a long one, and children are served breakfast, and given a bag of age-appropriate activities suitable for travel. When they arrive at the prison, they will spend several hours visiting, sharing a meal, and having a family photograph taken. This photograph often becomes one of the most treasured remembrances of the day for the mother and her children.

"As a society," said Sister Suzanne, "we must promote and embrace policies and practices that support our mission, which is to unite children, families and communities for a change that promises to heal."

This year, in one of the largest efforts ever, CDCR and the Center for Restorative Justice Works worked together to bring children to visit their incarcerated mothers on Mother's Day at the California Institution for Women, Central California Women's Facility, and Valley State Prison for Women.

Now a statewide event, 35 buses filled with more than 650 children and their guardians travelled this year from 17 cities throughout California to the prisons in southern and central California. The mothers have to be on good conduct for one year to earn a visit from their children.

When released from prison, those mothers are less inclined to return to crime because of the ties they have maintained with their children, according to most industry researchers.

"Every child wants to see, hug and talk with their mother, whether they are incarcerated or not," said Still. "Get on the Bus helps moms and kids stay connected. This benefits these children by lowering the likelihood that their mother will return to prison."

"It's all about the children," said Sister Suzanne. "With Get on the Bus our goal is to raise awareness regarding the needs of these children of incarcerated mothers."

For more information, please visit the CDCR website at www.cdcr.ca.gov ■



GPS monitors are increasing in use

California Leads the Way on GPS Monitoring of Sex Offenders

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) reported recently about a significant milestone reached as it successfully completed placing every High Risk Sex Offender (HRSO) parolee under its jurisdiction on global position satellite (GPS) monitoring.

California has clearly become the nation's leader when it comes to tracking sex offenders via the high tech devices. California now has a total of 4,800 sex offenders equipped with GPS. That total includes all 2,300 of its HRSO parolee population. That is nearly triple the 1,800 GPS units currently used by Florida, the second leading state using the devices.

"This is a significant accomplishment and shows that we are on track in implementing the GPS requirements mandated by Jessica's Law," said Scott Kernan, Chief Deputy Secretary of Adult Operations in a recent CDCR press release. "Our parole agents are working aggressively to increase public safety, and this is a major step for us to monitor those sex offenders deemed high risk to re-offend."

The recent achievement by the department means that now over half of its nearly 9,000 sex offenders on parole supervision are being monitored electronically. CDCR is scheduled to have the entire sex offender parolee population on GPS monitoring devices by June 2009.

"We aren't just monitoring these individuals by GPS, we have put them on reduced caseloads so that our parole agents can focus on keeping track of this population," said Division of Adult Parole Office Director Tom Hoffman. "Our parole agents are out there every day working hard to monitor these individuals. Our goal is to prevent them from re-offending."

Passed by California voters in 2006, Proposition 83 - also known as Jessica's Law - requires that every paroled sex offender be monitored by GPS. Managing sex offender issues has been a priority for the department. In 2006, the CDCR developed and implemented significant notification procedures to local law enforcement agencies prior to the release of a sex offender parolee to their county. The department also works continuously to improve its policies on managing sex offenders, including implementing the life-time GPS monitoring required by Jessica's Law. CDCR frequently seeks input from the California Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB), which was created in 2006 to advise the Legislature, the Governor and the CDCR in developing sound policy and recommendations on sex offender management.

CDCR Division of Adult Parole Assists County Wide Sweep Targeting Gang Members

Interagency effort covers Sacramento County in two days, netting 115 arrests



Members of CDCR Transportation Unit, Northern Hub, day 1 briefing (photo by Erin Treadwell)

By Paul Verke, Information Officer II

It was anything but “business as usual” in Sacramento’s Cal Expo parking lot on a warm mid-day in late April.

It was evident this was not your typical fair-going crowd: approximately 150 law enforcement vehicles, including Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, the California Highway Patrol, the Sacramento Police Department, and State Department of Justice covered the spaces.

Inside a building usually reserved for the State Fair County displays, CDCR’s Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) and Transportation Division agents joined other law enforcement agencies on 31 teams.

In all, 320 agents and officers from 18 agencies were gathered to go over the details of the Sacramento Neighborhoods Against Gangs operation, or SNAG III. Conducted April 17-18, 2008, and hosted by the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, the operation was a two-day enforcement effort that focused on active gang members and their associates.

“This is our third year of involvement

in the SNAG operation,” said Thomas Hoffman, Director of Division of Parole. “Our agents are on each of the 31 teams, targeting known gang members living in the community. It is a valuable operation.”

DAPO Parole Administrator Margarita Perez and Transportation Unit Captain John Oliva were on hand to greet the agents and officers. Following an invocation by a Sacramento County Sheriff Chaplain, and a brief speech by Perez on the importance of SNAG activities for the state, teams gathered to review safety equipment, contingency plans, and targeted areas. In less than an hour, they were out on the streets, where they would patrol into the early night.

This is not a typical operation, by any means. Teams had at their disposal canine units, air support, S.W.A.T. teams, and narcotics officers. A CDCR parole agent was assigned to each team. Using the element of surprise, units approach locations stealthily (not an easy task for a procession of six vehicles), and leave quietly. If violations or suspected criminal activity is seen along the way, they have the authority to investigate.

As in previous years, the planning

paid off: In addition to 115 arrests, the sweep resulted in the recovery of seven firearms and five edged weapons. Illegal cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine with a street value of approximately \$238,000 were also seized.

“Team members also gather valuable information during their visits, which reveal more about the gang activity in this region,” said Perez. “Not every visit results in a violation, or an arrest, but we still take photographs, and document what we see. In the end, it supports CDCR’s zero tolerance for gang activity, in prisons and out.”

For more information, please visit the CDCR website to see picture and a video of the operation at http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/2008_Press_Releases/April_24/index.html



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CDCR Lieutenant Honored by National Marrow Donor Program

Jonathan Parsley, Information Officer II
Office of Public and Employee Communications

Lt. Janell Love was the subject of a surprise presentation during a recent Basic Correctional Officer Academy for her volunteer work on behalf of the National Marrow Donor Program.

Lt. Love has single-handedly spearheaded numerous bone marrow drives during ongoing adult correctional officer cadet academies. Staff from the National Marrow Donor Program was there to present her an award on May 7 for her efforts and assistance with this important drive and for raising awareness to incoming cadets.

The campaign, entitled "Officers Give Hope" is focused on police, correctional officers and emergency personnel.

"We continue to come to the academy here in Galt because of the large number of people who volunteer to be tested to become bone marrow donors," said Jackie Gomez-Whitely, President of "Officers Give Hope."

Gomez-Whitely presented a plaque of appreciation to Nancy Baldwin, CDCR's Chief Learning Officer. Cathy Stark and John Whitely, Board members of the National Marrow Donor Program, were on hand to congratulate Lt. Love for her continued unselfish work.

"While it's so important to volunteer and be on our donor list, we understand the necessity of having a person on

the inside to champion this cause and someone to organize the yearly drive," Stark said. "Janell Love is exceptional and her continuing supervision of coordinating drives has made this program a true success."

Lt. Love was taken aback at receiving the crystal award. She was surprised to be honored during an academy graduation, but said she is grateful that she is making a difference.

She estimates that thousands of academy cadets have participated in this exercise since she began promoting it five years ago.

"I am at a loss for words, for once -- This is a very nice surprise," Love said. Love explained that she was asked by the "Officers Give Hope" program several years back. She had wanted to get a drive started at the academy, and what started out as a single-year effort, soon became an annual campaign.

"I coordinate the date each year to coincide when we have the most



cadets available to be tested for the bone marrow program," Love explained. She says motivating the cadets hasn't been a problem. In one year, a bone marrow patient and matching candidate cadet were found. The cadet was able to save a life by donating bone marrow to someone in need.

"I show the cadets a video that explains the process, I tell them how this may help them save a life and then I explain that I am registered with the program too," Love said. She estimates that of a class of 400 cadets, typically 300 cadets will volunteer to participate.

"As long as I'm here at the academy, I'll keep organizing this for the National Bone Marrow Registry," Love said. "I am very honored by this recognition."



A New Look for CDCR Online

Earlier this month, CDCR unveiled a new layout for its website with increased multi-media and special features, including recent information on AB900 and CDCR's Medal of Valor Ceremony. The new design also provides visitors an improved, user-friendly format, which makes for easier navigation and access to the information important to you.

Please be sure to visit: <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov> to experience the new and improved look and feel of CDCR on the web!

www.cdcr.ca.gov



Submissions

CDCR News publicizes staff activities, innovative programs, and transmits important information to the rank-and-file. To that end, we are always looking for interesting stories and pictures to be submitted for publication. Please send your submissions to:

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